

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 06156 311038Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 FRB-03 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /141 W
-----022580 311218Z /45

R 301115Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9311

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, AF

SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES, MOHD. ISMA'IL
DANESH

REF: KABUL 3889

1. ACCOMPANIED BY THE ECON OFFICER, I PAID MY INITIAL
CALL ON THE MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES,
MOHAMMAD ISMA'IL DANESH ON JULY 29.

2. I ASKED THE MINISTER ABOUT THE PRESENT STATUS OF
THE KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT, A PROJECT OF INTEREST TO
AMERICAN FIRMS. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT
HOPED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT, BUT AS IRANIAN FINANCING
DID NOT SEEM TO BE FORTHCOMING, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) NEEDED AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE. HE
SUGGESTED THAT THE USAID MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FUNDING
THE PROJECT. I EXPLAINED THAT OUR AID MANDATE PRECLUDED
FINANCING LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF THIS SORT
BUT THAT ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS,
WHICH ARE PARTLY SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 06156 311038Z

MIGHT BE A SOURCE OF FINANCING. (PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK ABOUT FINANCING THE PROJECT.)

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ABOUT THE PENDING
CONTRACT WITH THE CITIES SERVICE COMPANY FOR OIL
EXPLORATION IN SOUTHWESTERN AFGHANISTAN, DANESH

SAID THE MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN YET. IN PASSING, HE MENTIONED THAT AFGHAN OIL RESERVES DISCOVERED THUS FAR AMOUNTED TO LESS THAN TEN MILLION TONS -- PRIMARILY IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID THAT TOTAL, A FRENCH COMPANY, WHICH COMPLETED A SURVEY ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HAD FOUND PETROLEUM IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, BUT THE PETROLEUM WAS AT A DEPTH OF ABOUT FOUR THOUSAND METERS AND WAS NOT CONSIDERED, AT PRESENT, FEASIBLE FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRIORITIES HIS MINISTRY WILL HAVE IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN NOW BEING PREPARED, I SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED ABOUT ANY PLANS THE DRA MAY HAVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAJIGAK, A VERY RICH IRON ORE DEPOSIT LOCATED IN AN ISOLATED MOUNTAIN AREA ABOUT 100 KILOMETERS FROM KABUL. DANESH SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT OF HAJIGAK WAS PART OF THE PAST GOVERNMENT'S SEVEN-YEAR PLAN, BUT THE DRA BELIEVES THAT HAJIGAK MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR EARLY DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF THE EXPENSE OF EXPLOITING THE IRON ORE AND THE LACK OF MARKETS.

5. COMMENT: DANESH, AN ENGINEER, IS ONE OF THE FEW MINISTERS OF THE DRA WITH TECHNICAL COMPETENCE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 06156 311038Z

HE SPEAKS GOOD, THOUGH RUSTY ENGLISH, AND APPEARS TO BE A SENSIBLE, PRAGMATIC TECHNOCRAT. HE IS SHY BUT QUITE FRIENDLY.
DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CEMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL06156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-1294
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaadxp.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1dcf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 3889
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1977081
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES, MOHD. ISMA'IL DANESH
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, AF, US, (DUBS, ADOLPH), (DANESH, MOHAMMAD ISMA'IL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1dcf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014